

USPTO Customer No. 25280

Case 9292

REMARKS*The Pending Claims*

Claims 9 and 13 has been amended and claims 2-7 and 12 have been cancelled. Thus, claims 9-11 and 13-16 are currently are pending in the application.

Summary of the Office Action

The Office Action dated November 28, 2007, included the following rejections and objections:

1. Claims 2-7, 9-11, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chikaraishi et al. (US Patent 5,705,445) in view of Barnard et al. (US Patent 5,411,638), in further view of Rebouillat (US Patent 5,139,873), as evidenced by Albrecht et al. Nonwoven Fabrics page 324.
2. Claims 12-14 and 16 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In response to these rejections, objections, and comments, and in view of the above Amendments, Applicants provide the following Remarks:

Discussion of the Amendments

Applicants graciously note that the Office Action indicated that claims 12-14 and 16 to be allowable if written in independent form including the base claim and any intervening claims. The limitations of claim 12 have been added to claim 9. Claims 2-7 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully believe that all of the claims are now in condition for allowance.

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Conclusion

In view of the forgoing amendments and remarks, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejections and to pass the subject application to allowance. In the event that the Examiner believes that the claims would be allowable with minor changes, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned to discuss an Examiner's Amendment.

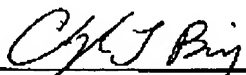
Fee Authorization: In the event that there are additional fees associated with the submission of these papers, Applicant hereby authorizes the Commissioner to withdraw those fees from our Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

Extension of Time: In the event that additional time is required to have the papers submitted herewith for the above referenced application to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for any additional time required to make these papers timely and authorization is hereby granted to withdraw any additional fees necessary for this additional time from our Deposit Account No. 04-0500.

February 8, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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